Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 111.   (Canceled)

112.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, by a set top box, update code streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;

generating, by [[a]] the set top box, a trigger to check whether the set top box is to invoke the update code that is continuously streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;

receiving, by the set top box in response to the trigger, an m-bit update flag, wherein the m-bit flag does not uniquely identify the set top box;

accessing, by the set top box, an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to the set top box;

comparing, by the set top box, the m-bit update flag to a predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, wherein n is greater than m;

determining, based on comparing the m-bit update flag to the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier; and

selectively invoking, by the set top box, the update code based on determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier.

113.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 112, further comprising:

determining, in response to determining that the *m*-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier, that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box, wherein the update code is selectively invoked based on determining that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box.

114.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted.

115.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

116.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising receiving a user selection, wherein the trigger is generated based on receiving the user selection.

117.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, further comprising receiving a confirmation from the user that the update code is to be invoked, wherein the update code is invoked based on receiving the confirmation from the user.

118.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 112, wherein invoking the update code further comprises identifying a future predetermined time in which the set top box is to download and run other code from the predetermined channel.

119.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

        determining, by a server, a quantity of set top boxes to update from a plurality of set top boxes;

        determining a quantity, *n*, of bits in an *n*-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to each set top box;

selecting, by the server, a value, *m*, based on the quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, *n*, wherein the value, *m*, is less than the quantity, *n*;

generating, by the server, an *m*-bit update flag;

including, by the server, the *m*-bit update flag in update code; and

~~continuously~~ streaming, by the server, the update code, including the *m*-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on a predetermined channel.

120. (Previously presented) The method of claim 119, further comprising:

after streaming the update code to the set top boxes, determining a quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code.

121. (Currently amended) The method of claim 120, further comprising:

determining, by the server, a second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code;

selecting, by the server, a value, *o*, based on the second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, *n*, where the value, *o*, is less than the quantity, *n*;

generating, by the server, an *o*-bit update flag;

including, by the server, the *o*-bit update flag in update code; and

~~continuously~~ streaming, by the server, the update code, including the *o*-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on the predetermined channel.

122. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

one or more computers; and

a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more computers having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform operations comprising:

receiving, by a set top box, update code streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel;

generating, by [[a]] the set top box, a trigger to check whether the set top box is to invoke the update code; that is continuously streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel,

receiving, by the set top box in response to the trigger, an m-bit update flag, wherein the m-bit flag does not uniquely identify the set top box;

accessing, by the set top box, an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to the set top box[[,]];

comparing, by the set top box, the m-bit update flag to a predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, wherein n is greater than m;

determining, based on comparing the m-bit update flag to the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier[[,]]; and

selectively invoking, by the set top box, the update code based on determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier.

123.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 122, wherein the operations further comprise:
determining, in response to determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box, wherein the update code is selectively invoked based on determining that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box.

124.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the operations further comprise determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted.

125.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the operations further comprise determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

126. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the operations further comprise receiving a user selection, wherein the trigger is generated based on receiving the user selection.

127. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein the operations further comprise receiving a confirmation from the user that the update code is to be invoked, wherein the update code is invoked based on receiving the confirmation from the user.

128. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122, wherein invoking the update code further comprises identifying a future predetermined time in which the set top box is to download and run other code from the predetermined channel.

129. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

one or more computers; and

a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more computers having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform operations comprising:

determining, by a server, a quantity of set top boxes to update from a plurality of set top boxes,

determining a quantity, n, of bits in an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to each set top box,

selecting, by the server, a value, m, based on the quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, wherein the value, m, is less than the quantity, n,

generating, by the server, an m-bit update flag,

including, by the server, the m-bit update flag in update code, and

~~continuously~~ streaming, by the server, the update code, including the m-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on a predetermined channel.

130. (Previously presented) The system of claim 129, wherein the operations further comprise:

after streaming the update code to the set top boxes, determining a quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code.

131.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 130, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining, by the server, a second quantity of set top boxes to update <u>from the plurality of set top boxes</u> based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code;

selecting, by the server, a value, o, based on the second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, <u>where the value, o, is less than the quantity, n</u>;

generating, by the server, an o-bit update flag;

including, by the server, the o-bit update flag in update code; and

~~continuously~~ streaming, by the server, the update code, including the o-bit update flag, to the <u>plurality of</u> set top boxes on the predetermined channel.

132.   (Currently amended) A computer storage medium encoded with a computer program, the program comprising instructions that when executed by one or more computers cause the one or more computers to perform operations comprising:

<u>receiving, by a set top box, update code streamed to the</u> set top box <u>by a server on a predetermined channel;</u>

generating, by [[a]] <u>the</u> set top box, a trigger to check whether the set top box is to invoke <u>the</u> update code ~~that is continuously streamed to the set top box by a server on a predetermined channel~~;

receiving, by the set top box in response to the trigger, an m-bit update flag<u>, wherein the m-bit flag does not uniquely identify the set top box</u>;

accessing, by the set top box, an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to the set top box;

comparing, by the set top box, the m-bit update flag to a predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier<u>, wherein n is greater than m</u>;

determining, based on comparing the m-bit update flag to the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier; and

selectively invoking, by the set top box, the update code based on determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier.

133. (Currently amended) The computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining, in response to determining that the m-bit update flag matches the predetermined portion of the n-bit unique hardware identifier, that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box, wherein the update code is selectively invoked based on determining that the update code is a newer version of code that exists on the set top box.

134. (Previously presented) The computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the set top box has been booted or rebooted.

135. (Previously presented) The computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise determining that a predetermined period of time has elapsed, wherein the trigger is generated based on determining that the predetermined period of time has elapsed.

136. (Previously presented) The computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise receiving a user selection, wherein the trigger is generated based on receiving the user selection.

137. (Previously presented) The computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein the operations further comprise receiving a confirmation from the user that the update code is to be invoked, wherein the update code is invoked based on receiving the confirmation from the user.

138. (Previously presented) The computer storage medium of claim 132, wherein invoking the update code further comprises identifying a future predetermined time in which the set top box is to download and run other code from the predetermined channel.

139. (Currently amended) A computer storage medium encoded with a computer program, the program comprising instructions that when executed by one or more computers cause the one or more computers to perform operations comprising:

determining, by a server, a quantity of set top boxes to update from a plurality of set top boxes;

determining a quantity, n, of bits in an n-bit unique hardware identifier assigned to each set top box;

selecting, by the server, a value, m, based on the quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, wherein the value, m, is less than the quantity, n;

generating, by the server, an m-bit update flag;

including, by the server, the m-bit update flag in update code; and

~~continuously~~ streaming, by the server, the update code, including the m-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on a predetermined channel.

140. (Previously presented) The computer storage medium of claim 139, wherein the operations further comprise:

after streaming the update code to the set top boxes, determining a quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code.

141. (Currently amended) The computer storage medium of claim 140, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining, by the server, a second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code;

selecting, by the server, a value, o, based on the second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, where the value, o, is less than the quantity, n;

generating, by the server, an o-bit update flag;

including, by the server, the *o*-bit update flag in update code; and

~~continuously~~ streaming, by the server, the update code, including the *o*-bit update flag, to the plurality of set top boxes on the predetermined channel.

142. (New) The method of claim 119, wherein the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier corresponds to systematically distributed data that corresponds to a known criteria.

143. (New) The method of claim 142, wherein the known criteria is one of a geographic region or a preferred program genre.

144. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier corresponds to systematically distributed data that corresponds to a known criteria.

145. (New) The system of claim 144, wherein the known criteria is one of a geographic region or a preferred program genre.

146. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 139, wherein the *n*-bit unique hardware identifier corresponds to systematically distributed data that corresponds to a known criteria.

147. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 146, wherein the known criteria is one of a geographic region or a preferred program genre.

148. (New) The method of claim 121, further comprising:

determining, by the server, a type for the feedback provided by the quantity of users;

selecting, by the server, a modified second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code and the type of the feedback provided by the quantity of users; and

selecting, by the server, a modified value, o', based on the modified second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, $n,$ where the modified value, o', is less than the quantity, n.

149. (New) The method of claim 148, wherein:

the type of feedback is negative,

the modified second quantity of set top boxes is less than the second quantity of set top

boxes based on the negative feedback, and

the modified value, o', is less than the value, o.

150. (New) The method of claim 148, wherein:

the type of feedback is positive,

the modified second quantity of set top boxes is greater than the second quantity of set

top boxes based on the positive feedback, and

the modified value, o', is greater than the value, o.

151. (New) The system of claim 131, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining, by the server, a type for the feedback provided by the quantity of users;

selecting, by the server, a modified second quantity of set top boxes to update from the

plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the

update code and the type of the feedback provided by the quantity of users; and

selecting, by the server, a modified value, o', based on the modified second quantity of

set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, where the modified value, o', is less than the

quantity, n.

152. (New) The system of claim 151, wherein:

the type of feedback is negative,

the modified second quantity of set top boxes is less than the second quantity of set top

boxes based on the negative feedback, and

the modified value, o', is less than the value, o.

153. (New) The system of claim 151, wherein:

the type of feedback is positive,

the modified second quantity of set top boxes is greater than the second quantity of set top boxes based on the positive feedback, and

the modified value, o', is greater than the value, o.

154. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 141, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining, by the server, a type for the feedback provided by the quantity of users;

selecting, by the server, a modified second quantity of set top boxes to update from the plurality of set top boxes based on the quantity of users that have provided feedback for the update code and the type of the feedback provided by the quantity of users; and

selecting, by the server, a modified value, o', based on the modified second quantity of set top boxes to update and the quantity, n, where the modified value, o', is less than the quantity, n.

155. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 154, wherein:

the type of feedback is negative,

the modified second quantity of set top boxes is less than the second quantity of set top boxes based on the negative feedback, and

the modified value, o', is less than the value, o.

156. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 154, wherein:

the type of feedback is positive,

the modified second quantity of set top boxes is greater than the second quantity of set top boxes based on the positive feedback, and

the modified value, o', is greater than the value, o.